

Grant Continuation Report from Task Force

- Recommendation:**
- Recommend continuation level of funding and slot level.
 - Recommend doing a six-month performance review in April using quarter report for period ending March 30. Task Force/Commission can make any needed adjustments/reductions to funding and slots at that time. Maintaining continued funding and slots at requested level will depend on performance. Commission can request decrease in award during negotiation with CNCS.

Legal Applicant: Maine Campus Compact/Univ. of Southern Maine

Program Name: Maine Partnership for Environmental Stewardship

Category: ☐ AC Formula
☒ AC Competitive
☐ Other Competition

Type: ☐ Planning
☒ Operating
☐ Fixed Price
☐ Ed Award Only

Year in Grant Cycle: ☐ Year 1 ☒ Year 2 ☐ Year 3

Continuation Dates: Start: 8/15/2018 End: 8/14/2019

New Resources for Continuation: Funds and Slots

	CNCS		Local Share					
Operating	\$ 65,494		61,429					
Member Support	\$108,999		0					
Indirect (Admin)	\$ 3,400		37,422					
CNCS Award amount	\$177,893	Total Local Share (cash + in-kind)		\$98,851				
% sharing proposed	64%		36%					
% share required	70%		30%					
Cost-per-member proposed (max allowed)	\$13,590							
Total AmeriCorps Member Service Years: 13.09		Slot Types Requested						
		FT	HT	RHT	QT	MT		Total
	Slots With living allowance	6			6			12
	Slots with only ed award					26		26

Program Description (executive summary):

The Maine Campus Compact Maine Partnership for Environmental Stewardship (MPES) has 6 Full Time (FT), 6 Quarter Time (QT), and 26 Minimum Time (MT) AmeriCorps members (totaling 13.09 MSYs) who will partner with community organizations and higher education institutions to effect individual behavioral and technical change leading to energy efficiency, particularly for economically disadvantaged individuals and households in 6 regions in Maine.

At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for hosting a total of 12 (2 per site) Community Energy Education Events, 12 (2 per site) Window Insert Community Builds (600 interior storm window inserts built and installed into 120 homes), and conducting at least 375 energy audits in low income homes. Community education will focus on helping individuals identify concrete methods for saving energy in the home, such as installing low-efficiency light bulbs, avoiding phantom loads from household appliances, efficient water heating and air conditioning practices, and energy-saving routines with dishwashers, ovens, and clothes washers/dryers. Changing energy habits will change the amount of money low income families spend on energy. Beneficiaries for the window insert builds will be recruited at the community events. Window inserts block heat loss and are shown to save \$30/window during the heating season.

Service locations (new sites are italicized):

AmeriCorps members are based on campuses of MCC members and serve surrounding communities. The base locations are Bowdoin College/ Brunswick, Saint Josephs' College/ Standish, Unity College/ Unity, University of Maine/ Orono, University of Maine at Augusta Bangor Campus/ Bangor, University of Maine at Farmington/ Farmington.

Performance measures (targets and achievement for prior years; targets proposed for new year):

NOTE: Maine Campus Compact is a new AmeriCorps State grantee that started operations in September 2017. Due to the federal continuation cycle, it is required to apply for year 2 funding before it completes its first quarter of operations. Therefore, the performance measure information that follows shows only the targets set for the first year of operation and no accomplishment data. The first progress report is due January 20, 2018.

SERVICE: same as reflected in continuation

> OUTPUT. Target = 240.

EN3 – Number of individuals receiving education or training in energy-efficient and environmentally-conscious practices, including but not limited to sustainable energy and other natural resources, and

> OUTCOME. Target – 160.

EN3-3.1 – Number of individuals with increased knowledge of environmental stewardship.

> OUTCOME. Target – 120

EN3-3.2 – Number of individuals reporting a change in behavior or intention to change behavior.

> OUTPUT. Target – 120

EN1 – Number of housing units of low-income households and structures weatherized or retrofitted to significantly improve energy efficiency.

> OUTCOME. Target – 100

EN1.1 – Number of households with reduced energy consumption or reduced energy costs

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

> OUTPUT. Target – 38

Number of AmeriCorps program training and other formal development activities that result in increased AmeriCorps member skills, knowledge, and abilities related to the service assignment (community, tasks, and sector).

> OUTCOME. Target – 38

Number of AmeriCorps members demonstrating increased competency in skills or application of knowledge.

CAPACITY BUILDING.

• OUTPUT. G3-3.1 Target -- 120

Number of community volunteers *recruited* by AmeriCorps members or program

AND

G3-3.7 Target -- TBD

Hours of service contributed by community volunteers who were *recruited* by AmeriCorps members or program

• OUTCOME G3-3.13 Target -- 200

Number of additional direct service activities and/or units completed for organizations by volunteers recruited/managed by AmeriCorps members.

Operating performance summary:

Enrollment/retention.

	Total MSYs	Total slots	1700 hr	900 hr	675 hr	450 hr	300 hr
Original Award	13.09	38	6			6	26
Enrollment to-date		34	6			3*	25*
% of enrollment		89.5%	100%			50%	96%
Exited before service term complete		0					
Retention rate (%)**		100%					

* Enrollment updated from 11/22/2017 to reflect status on 12/31.

** Too early in program year to make a judgement on retention.

Compliance:

» Program operation

The program is one of only 2 that met a deadline for having all performance measures and position descriptions in the Commission's OnCorps monitoring system. The program staff is very diligent, requests assistance frequently and appropriately, and participates in all general TA/training offered.

It should be noted the continuation application lists the Campus Compact members that are hosting AmeriCorps members. The sites had not been identified at the time of the original application.

As noted in other sections of this summary, the normal timing for a compliance review is at 6 months which will be February 2018.

» Member management

Member records review is part of the compliance/monitoring visit that normally occurs in February (six months). Right now, the program is asking for (and receiving) a lot of assistance with ensuring member position descriptions are accurate. From the eGrants reports, it is evident the staff are struggling a bit to meet the 30-day enrollment requirement. To date, 10 of the 16 enrolled members were entered in the Trust portal on day 32.

» Program Finances and Agency Fiscal Issues

The audit reviewed with the application is still the most current so there are no changes.

Sponsor and program issues.

Both staff of Maine Campus Compact with AmeriCorps responsibilities have left so the Executive Director of MCC continues to cover all aspects of start up. One of the program positions has been filled and the new person starts around the end of 2017. The Exec is working hard at distinguishing between the VISTA rules that apply to the project they managed for years and the AmeriCorps State rules. The other challenge is learning the new administrative policies and systems of USM, the new fiscal agent for Maine Campus Compact. The change in fiscal agents occurred in summer 2017 after 20+ years under Bates College umbrella.

It should be noted that the Cooperative Agreement was modified per Attorney General's agreement with USM. Clauses that could not be applied to the state itself were removed because USM is part of the state university system.

Financial.

The fiscal reports are now done by grant staff at USM. They are on time, accurate, and complete. Match is appropriate given the program has not completed a full quarter of operation.

In the proposed budget for the continuation year, all local share is secured at the time of application – both cash and inkind.

Task Force Review Comments:

- Impressed with recruitment. Running against trend of low recruitment.
- Need to complete performance measures. [MCC has completed all sets since submission deadline for continuation on 11/22.]
- MCC missed enrolling members within the first 30 days of service. They need to be compliant on this point going into the future.
- What is program doing to ensure recruitment success continues? Labor market in southern Maine is tight.
- With so little time in the project – this application seemed fine to grant continuation. In only a few months, they seem on target and their minor adjustments in budget have been cost-effective and beneficial.

Task Force Continuation Recommendation	Authorize Proposal	Modify: Increase	Modify: Decrease	Deny Request
Budget	X			
Volunteers/participants	X			
Performance targets	X			
Operating plans	X			